

held the ground they had originally taken, — his admiration was expressed to Soult, ' How beautifully these English fight! — but they *must* give way !' "¹

While the battle continued along the whole of the British position the Belgians were driven from Papelotte and La Haye by the French. One of the columns in making this attack was completely routed by the 12th British dragoons: this, nevertheless, did not prevent them from carrying the two villages.

The farm of La Haye Sainte was bravely defended by 400 men of the King's German Legion, eventually re-enforced by two more companies of the same body. Profiting by the temporary recoil produced by one of their combined attacks upon this part of the British line, La Haye Sainte was surrounded by French troops, and incessant efforts were made by them to carry it. The gallant Germans repulsed every attempt as long as their ammunition lasted. This at length failed them, and there was no possibility of introducing a further supply, the provision of a gate at the rear having been overlooked. The overwhelming force of the French near the spot, and the difficulty of ingress offered by the construction of the building, rendered all aid hopeless. For some time these devoted men resisted their adversaries with their swords and bayonets, but the French, firing upon them from the roof, and bursting open the strong doors and defences, soon succeeded in overpowering the remnant, who, to a man, were put to the sword. This success, unattended with any ultimate benefit to the French, was all they could boast of. The contest was now continued in the same unconnected mode of skirmishing in front of La Haye Sainte and around Hougo-mont.

The cavalry charges on the right wing were repeated time after time without infantry support till nearly half-past four, all, however, without any great result. Soon after four o'clock a brief cessation of Napoleon's repeated attacks took place: this may be considered as the crisis of the sanguinary contest of Waterloo. The squares of the Allied army had